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Holiday cheer

Fun was had by all at Huskies Santa Day on Wednesday, Nov. 30. Ella Gooley, left, who sings the national anthem for the Haliburton County Huskies' home games, and Brooke Gooley laugh with Santa during the event hosted by Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Limited in Haliburton. The event featured a meet and greet with the Haliburton County Huskies, autograph signing, photos with Santa, and donations were collected for the local food bank. See more photos on page 11. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Health board issues overdose alert for area

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Public health officials say it's time to revisit and resurrect a former drug strategy for the region.

To prove the importance of such a strategy, one needs to look no further than the

recent opioid overdose alert issued by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

The regional health authority issued on Nov. 29 an opioid overdose alert for Haliburton County. It also reached into the City of Kawartha Lakes and Northumberland County areas.

The alert was issued because of a spike

in overdoses in October and November. Kate Hall, a health promoter with the district health unit, said there were three ODs during one weekend alone in that timeframe.

"Recent data is showing an increase in youth drug overdoses," she said. "We want to remind parents and guardians of the importance of talking to their children

about drugs."

The HKPR District Health Unit's opioid overdose alert automatically flags the problem for community partners and first responders, which triggers enhanced outreach efforts and distribution of naloxone kits.

Naloxone is an emergency medicine

see DRUG page 3

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Community comes together to remember Iles

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

Whether at home, at work, at sports games, or at the hunt camp, Mike Iles was an outstanding leader, friend, and family member; someone everyone could turn to for a solution to a problem and a for a calming, stable presence.

He loved many, and showed it through his actions.

He was husband to Wendy, father to Chris and Tessa, and grandfather to Joe, "the light of his life."

"He just loved the community," Chris said. "He knew everybody. He just loved being there for people, being there for his neighbours, being there for people he knew."

Mike passed away at age 61 on Saturday, Nov. 26 "after a very courageous battle with lung cancer," read his obituary. "He fought hard to the end."

The Haliburton community mourned Mike on Friday, Dec. 1 where countless stopped by the Dysart Fire Hall or at a reception held at the AJ LaRue Arena to pay their respects to his family.

Mike's most recent job was chief at the Dysart Fire Department. He was was hired as chief in 2016 after working as a volunteer firefighter since 1993.

"He really found his calling as chief," said Chris.

Before that, he worked as service manager and part-owner at Curry Motors.

Andy Salvatori had been friends with Mike since they were in Grade 1, both attending Victoria Street School in Haliburton and then Haliburton Highlands Secondary School.

They went on to co-own Curry Motors along with Don Popple.

Mike's desire to help and loyalty to those he loved is what Salvatori will remember most.

"He was a very loyal guy to everybody that was his friend, his family. He was always there to help. If you needed help, he would be there," Salvatori said.

Both Salvatori and Popple said Mike's calm demeanor and ability to problem solve was crucial to helping things run smoothly at the dealership.

"I told Mike that being service manager was the hardest job in the place. You know what he said? He said, 'I can do it.' And he did. He did an incredible job. You never had to ask him to do anything twice," Popple said.

The same can be said about how Mike led the fire department.

Chris has been a volunteer firefighter with the Dysart department since 2011, and said that one memory of his father sticks out in particular.

"He had been off, and he was in the process of getting diagnosed and figuring out what was going on. We had an extremely busy day at the firehall. We were dealing with call after call after call. One of them was a house fire."

Chris called Mike and asked if he could work on dispatch to free up another firefighter.



Mike Iles was a well-respected leader during his time as fire chief of the Dysart Fire Department. /FILE

"Yup, no problem," said Mike.

At the house fire, Chris said every single person working on the scene approached him at one point that day.

"They would all say, 'It was so good to hear your Dad's voice today. As soon as I heard his voice on there, I knew everything was going to be okay.' That speaks volumes to how respected he was," Chris said.

Mike was always composed, no matter the situation.

"It's easy to let adrenaline take over in firefighting. He never seemed to do that. He was always just calm and had a calm voice and calm demeanor," Chris said.

This allowed Mike to make good decisions.

"He would often think outside of the box, coming up with solutions that nobody else could think of."

On the outside, Chris said many would have seen Mike as a serious person because of his leadership roles.

"At home, he was just a huge softie," Chris said.

As a kid, Chris played house league hockey, and he remembers his Dad coming in the changeroom with a slushy for each and every player at the end of practice.

"He was that Dad. He treated them as if they were all his own kids. He was always there and available for any of us. That was him."

Mike loved spending time outdoors hunting, fishing, ATVing, and snowmobiling with his friends and family.

"He lived for the hunt camp and lived for the fellowship and camaraderie there," Chris said. Like all other aspects in his life, though, Mike loved those experiences most because of the people he shared them with.

"He valued his family most in his life. He loved us all and would do anything for any of us. His friends, the firehall, Curry Motors, that was all his family, too."

A tribute to Mike Iles

News of the passing of Mike Iles was received with great sadness at Haliburton Forest. Our team – both long serving staff as well as relatively new staff – held Mike in the highest regard.

To the staff of Haliburton Forest, Mike was a lessee, hunter, friend, client, and supportive stakeholder. It was always a pleasure to bump into him at Base Camp or in the bush. In that context, we will miss seeing him around, chatting with him, and enjoying his company.

Mike was also something much more significant to Haliburton Forest. Over the years, our entire team came to view Mike as a kind of guardian angel, who would show up with his colleagues from the Fire Department to save the day if disaster struck.

Most of the encounters that we each personally had with Mike were in the context of him being the Fire Chief. These encounters were typically emergency situations within or near Haliburton Forest; for example, when someone was lost, someone was hurt, or something was on fire.

A few times, these emergencies were in daylight during the week along a paved road, but usually they were late at night, on a weekend, deep in the bush – in other words, in the worst possible place and at the worst possible time. Yet, Mike would be there, with his colleagues from the Fire Department, to save the day, with a high level of skill and a remarkably good attitude.

It takes a special kind of person to keep calm and get things done during an emergency. Without exception, Mike was the definition of calm, and he always did his job efficiently. His colleagues were right on par with

him in terms of calmness and effectiveness during every emergency.

But Mike himself always did far better than just staying calm and doing his job. During every emergency that we can remember attending with Mike, from the moment he showed up, he also conveyed an aura of courage, dignity, authority, and respect.

Sometimes during these situations, if it was appropriate, (and he always seemed to know if it would be appropriate), he would bust out his sense of humour, lifting the mood and providing comfort to everybody around him, including the person who needed emergency assistance.

In closing, for many years, the 100-plus staff at Haliburton Forest have taken pleasure from seeing Mike around the property and taken comfort in knowing that Mike would be there to save the day if there was an emergency.

That is why we will remember Mike as a lessee, hunter, friend, supportive stakeholder, and guardian angel.

On behalf of all of our colleagues at Haliburton Forest, we offer our deepest condolences to his friends and family, and we are profoundly grateful that during his service as fire chief, Mike developed and led an entire cohort of successor guardian angels, being his competent, dedicated peers at the Fire Department, who will continue serving our community for many years to come.

Malcolm Cockwell, Managing Director
Tegan Legge, General Manager
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Feds announce money for Indigenous business development

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Digital literacy in business is crucial for success in today's marketplace.

To that end, the federal government announced a cash infusion Nov. 25 in Lindsay to help rural, remote, and Indigenous entrepreneurs learn the tools necessary for success.

Filomena Tassi, the minister responsible for the Federal Economic Development Agency for southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario), announced more than \$1-million for economic growth and job creation through the Jobs and Growth Fund.

It's for the Pinnguaq Association to adapt its digital literacy training tools to support businesses and underrepresented job-seekers in Indigenous communities in southeastern Ontario.

The training will focus on the regions of Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Peterborough, and Hastings, including Treaty 20 and Williams Treaty Nations.

The Pinnguaq Association is a not-for-profit organization working with rural, remote and Indigenous communities to ensure they have the support needed to develop digital literacy and skills needed to position them for success.

"By providing the necessary tools and resources to Indigenous-led businesses and organizations, we're giving everyone an opportunity to succeed," Tassi said.

"These internships, job placements, and training will increase Indigenous par-

ticipation in the economy and drive economic growth in local communities."

According to a government release, Indigenous businesses, organizations and workers are vital contributors to Canada's economy and our nation's rich culture. But entrepreneurs and job seekers need the required tools and resources to start and grow their businesses or search for employment.

Through the two-year project, businesses will be supported and Indige-

nous job-seekers will receive training to strengthen their digital abilities from basic computer skills to digital marketing and communications. The training will include website and graphic design to prepare them for employment.

Individuals will also participate in internship opportunities, job placements, and targeted recruitment activities.

That will be valuable on-the-job experience to prepare for future employment. The project is expected to support

60 Indigenous businesses with funding to support up to 120 internships and job placements.

"The Pinnguaq Association is delighted by the support for this program," said Ryan Oliver, CEO at the association.

"It is our honour to be able to co-deliver these opportunities with Indigenous communities and businesses in both settler communities and Indigenous Nations on Treaty 20 and Williams Treaty land."



Filling up for food banks

Ontario Provincial Police auxiliary members Mark Jones and Brad Robinson braved the weather and collected donations for the Haliburton County Food Bank at Haliburton Foodland for the OPP's Fill a Cruiser campaign on Saturday, Dec. 3. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

Drug Strategy is being revisited, says Health Unit

from page 1

that temporarily reverses the effects of an opioid overdose until the victim can get to hospital for treatment. Naloxone is recommended to be used in all suspected drug overdoses, due to the possibility of opioid contamination or poisoning.

Opioid users are advised never to use drugs alone. A buddy system can ensure help is at hand in the event of an overdose. Users need to avoid mixing drugs and they should keep a naloxone kit on hand. You can get a naloxone kit at most pharmacies and needle exchange sites.

Naloxone kits are also available for people who use opioids, as well as their family and friends. These can be picked up at Health Unit offices, local pharmacies, and other locations.

"We don't have any information about the substances related to the overdoses that are being reported," Hall said.

While physicians and nursing staff at the hospital where the OD patient was treated may know what type of drug was prevalent in the individual that caused the crisis, the health authority isn't privy to such information to ensure patient privacy.

"We don't know what the outcomes of these emergency room visits are," she said. "In the data, it's reported as an overdose. It's a person. It's someone's loved one. We don't know what the outcome is."

She said there's new research that delves into the contributions of stimulants in opioid toxicity deaths across public health units in Ontario.

"There is evidence out there to show there are a number of factors that are coming in to play with toxicity and poisoning," she said. "That is increasing and that's a concern because things like naloxone may not work. It may not be effective if we're getting stimulants mixed in."

Hall said conversations have recently taken place toward resurrecting the Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland Drug Strategy. The strategy was developed years ago but has been in limbo because of the pandemic and a lack of resources to implement it, she said.

"We're revisiting that," she said about the drug strategy. "We're having conversations with community partners and coming back around the table to make a plan about what can be done."

There are about 35 community or regional drug strategies across the province. The goal of such plans is to respond to substance use-related harms and issues faced by community members, service providers, health care systems, and all levels of government.

The Ontario Trillium Foundation awarded the Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland Drug Strategy a grant for three years, which started in July 2016 and finished December 2019. Right before the social shutdown brought on by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the website, the purpose of the Haliburton, Kawartha Lakes, Northumberland Drug Strategy (formerly known as the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge Drug Strategy) was to facilitate a collaborative, evidence-based approach to minimize the risks and harms associated with substance use in the region.

Having a local drug strategy will ensure coordination and consistency of efforts to address drug use. It will improve communication between multiple stakeholders over a wide geography, and enable the region to better respond to evolving substance use trends and harms as a community.

Hall said an opioid overdose alert indicates such a collaborative approach is required.

"With every alert, the immediacy of the issue comes back," she said.



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There are currently no plans for the temporary construction road built along Highway 118 in Haliburton to allow for slope repairs to be made into a walkway following construction. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

No walkway planned following construction on 118

VIVIAN COLLINGS
Editor

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation and Municipality of Dysart public works department do not have plans to create a walkway following road rehabilitation on Highway 118 along Head Lake in Haliburton.

The section of road outside the Gardens of Haliburton is just one part of the highway being repaired; a project under MTO's Ontario Highways Program.

"Highway 118, from Carnarvon to Haliburton, is currently being rehabilitated. This work includes pavement rehabilitation and slope stabilization and improvements to intersections, drainage and guiderail," said MTO communications advisor Dakota Brasier.

A temporary roadway is being built for construction vehicles between the highway and the lake, and is a requirement for a proper embankment to be built to restabilize this section of road.

"The embankment will become a permanent part of the final slope stabilization, but the temporary access roads will be removed," Brasier said. "The ministry is not planning a walkway at this location."

All trees were removed between Head Lake and Highway 118 in the summer to allow for this construction to take place.

Rob Camelon, director of public works for the Municipality of Dysart, said, "The municipality has no plans for construction of a walkway along the new construction along Highway 118 currently."

Work on this section of the highway is expected to be complete by the end of 2023.



We are the champions

The Walker's Heating and Cooling U13 Rep Highland Storm hockey team took home the championship on Nov. 28 at last weekend's Wasaga Beach Silver Stick qualifier. The team now progresses onto the International Finals in Forest this January. Way to go Storm! /Submitted

Pockets the Clown was busy all night creating whimsical holiday facepaint for all attendees.



Here comes Santa Claus
Haliburton Rotary provided visitors with crayons, cookies, and pizza. The family-friendly event ran on Dec. 3 at the Haliburton Legion to a full crowd. Pictured, Sienna, 6, Shania 2, and their mom, Rachel Selbie, enjoyed cookies from Santa. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Despite cotton candy, pizza, activities, and games provided by Haliburton Rotary, Santa Claus was the main event at the Haliburton Rotary Community Christmas Party. William, 8, and Ander, 6, Brown shared their wish list with Santa before snapping a photo.



Cotton candy was a huge hit at the Haliburton Rotary Community Christmas and Skating Party on Friday, Dec. 2 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129 in Haliburton. Ursula Devolin hands cotton candy to Finn Byrne. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

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points of view



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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

Of difficult choices

LIFE IS rife with tough choices. None of them should be weighing whether or not to put a meal on the table for your family or keeping the heat on during a cold winter.

I've long lamented the chasm that is the wealth gap between the rich and the average. Evidence of that growing divide is undeniable. The proof is all around us. The evidence is in Feed Ontario's annual Hunger Report.

The first image that greets you when you go to the Feed Ontario website (feedontario.ca) is the happy face of a little girl about to bite into a red juicy apple. You can see happiness in her brown eyes looking into the camera.

This year's edition of the annual Hunger Report was released in November and it points to a stark reality. Not a new reality, necessarily. Well, for some people: The growing number of first-time visitors to Ontario's food banks. It's a new world for them. The number of Ontarians who accessed a food bank between January and September increased by 24 per cent over last year. One in three food bank users were first-time visitors. They rose 64 per cent since 2019.

You can't blame the pandemic, either. This has been the sixth consecutive year for increases in the ranks of food bank users, according to Feed Ontario.

The crowd at Feed Ontario don't pull their punches, either, bless them. To wit: "Both the government and the private sector have increasingly relied upon food banks to subsidize budget cuts and cost-saving measures."

That comes close to assigning blame. I realize that, and I tend to agree.

Food banks are concerned about the rate at which food insecurity is rising. For one thing, a visit to a food bank meets a person's or a family's

immediate needs. Another concern is that people's need can outpace supply. You think that's a long way off? It might be closer than we think.

I know people who had to make the tough choice I opened this piece with. I guess that makes it all closer to me, more immediate than it could be to other people.

A friend of mine has three children. They're teenagers. He and his missus work shifts, he at a warehouse where he drives a forklift and she at a pharmacy. They live where she can walk to her job. But he has to drive a little more than an hour each way.

I told him I was writing this. All he asked was that he not be identified.

His difficult choice: To put gas in the car so he can get to work or use that coin to buy a few groceries. Nevermind whatever's on anybody's Christmas wish list.

A no-brainer, right? You do what you have to do. So my friend, he parked his car until pay day. Called in sick to his job every day for almost a week. And he put in for what his union calls a Family Emergency Day.

So it worked out all right for them.

It worked out this time. He's looked into where his local food bank is located. That's part of planning for the next time when maybe there's another choice that needs to be made.

And there are many families that have to make similar decisions every day.

From the 2022 Hunger Report: "In a recent survey of 140 food banks, two out of three shared that there has been a noticeable decrease in food donations, and one out of five shared that the food bank has not been able to purchase the same volume of food as before due to higher food prices. In many ways, this is creating a perfect storm – demand is hitting an all-time high while resources are declining."



james
matthews

Editorial



Early December ice out.

by David Zilstra

Light

IHAVE A lovely group of women who do qigong with me on Wednesday mornings, and at this time of year we start our class dancing and singing to Bruce Springsteen's version of *This Little Light of Mine*.

Our intention is to warm up and brighten our inner light/our spirits as the days get shorter. We pay attention to the light. It makes us feel good. As I write this article, I am sitting by a fireplace sipping a cup of tea in an AirBnb in Niagara on the Lake.

I am here with my mother and a friend and her mother. We are staying in a blacksmith's cottage that was built in 1835. It is a cozy little spot within close walking distance of downtown.

It's my first time visiting this part of the province. We are doing all the things a person does down here. We had lunch and a walk around a local winery. We participated in a Rotary Club of Niagara on the Lake fundraiser which involved touring the McArthur Estate, which has been decorated for the Christmas season. We walked around downtown and did a little shopping. We've had some really great food at local restaurants, and today we are going to the Shaw Festival to see *White Christmas* and then off to Niagara Falls to see the festival of lights.

The lights down here are magical. So many people have taken the time to decorate the town, as well as their homes. It feels very welcoming and very cared for

here.

And, I am happy to know that when we get back in the car and drive home tomorrow that we are returning to a county that is full of light, as well! I just love our part of the world and the many people who care for it and make it special. We have so much spirit.

I attended the Santa Claus parade in downtown Haliburton last week, and it was a beautiful example of community spirit. I counted about 50 floats that

were lit up and full of cheer. The bagpipes brought tears to my eyes as they always do. And I danced along with the Kawartha Cavaliers. They never disappoint.

So many people volunteered their time to organize the parade, build the floats and then participate. This upcoming week also has

lots of opportunities to brighten your spirit. On Tuesday, Dec. 6, the Highland Festival Singers Christmas Concert is happening again after a two-year hiatus. On Wednesday night, there is a full "cold" moon that will light up the sky. On Thursday, Dec. 8, there is a Ladies' Shopping Night event in downtown Haliburton, and on the weekend, the Nutcracker featuring all of our young dancers is back on the stage at the Northern Lights Pavilion.

We are a county full of light; another reason I am so glad I live here.

Tales from
the great



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points of view

Cake boss

I AM 60 years old, and I baked my first cake on Saturday.

Don't be sad. I had a good run.

Some people would argue that I did not actually bake a cake, since I utilized a box mix. And they may be right, but this is as close as I'm ever going to get to baking one.

For my inaugural cake, I chose a lemon cake with vanilla icing. It was good. Having said that, I will probably never bake another cake.

I just wanted to see if I could.

From here on in, I will leave the cake baking to those who enjoy it or make a living at it.

But I will also sleep better knowing that, should a horrific nuclear apocalypse overtake the earth and cause our civilization to descend into chaos and anarchy, I now possess one of the essential skills required to survive any upcoming global catastrophe.

And I'm counting on it being one of those lost arts.

If so, I will be able to walk into any hostile, mutant-

infested, post-apocalyptic colony, and should I can find, potable water, three eggs, a cake mix box whose expiry date is still approaching, as well as a can of store bought icing, a functioning hand mixer, a mixing bowl, cake pan and working oven, I will be able to win the acceptance and admiration of the suspicious and hostile mutants within, by offering them a moist, delicious piece of my world-famous vanilla-iced lemon cake.

That's because, unless my instincts are steering me way

wide of the mark, I suspect a scrumptious piece of lemon cake will be worth its weight in potassium iodide serum in a nuclear-ravaged world. Just as it was at our dinner table on Saturday night.

I don't care what's got you down. My cake alone can fix it.

Sure, you might have been born in the After Time with a third unblinking eye, due to the unsustainable radiation levels and genetic damage that has left with you with a heightened sense of taste. And yes, maybe the other kids constantly make fun of all your eyebrows and lack of a second head – but, just for a moment, when you try my delectable cake, you'll forget all that – and even your third eye will light up!

My cake is to-die-for. There, I said it.

I expect I'll probably be called to stand before the Counsel of Mutant Elders to explain this "lemony magic," or suffer the consequences of being buried from the neck down in the Desert of Countless Skulls. But I suspect they will be far more friendly after I cut them each a generous slice and tell them that, should they bury me, my ability to conjure culinary delights also dies with me – and note that this will lead the Great Uprising as the prophecy foretold.

Soon after, I imagine, I will be promoted to the revered position of Cake Boss of the Emperor's Court. And eventually, through guile, military brilliance, ruthlessness, and what can only be described as an otherworldly lemon cake, I will be able unite the Wasteland Colonies into the greatest power since the Fiery Destruction was visited on the Before Times.

Look, I'm not saying this is the only reason I learned to bake the perfect cake. Because that would be weird. I guess what I am saying is that sometimes it's the little skills that create unexpected opportunities for you in life.

And, you know, your heart needs to be open to that.



steve
galea

Loon Tales



pic of the past

This unknown man is driving a cutter sleigh at the intersection of Highland Str. & Maple Ave., circa 1910. The building in the background is the William Prust building erected in 1891. It was the first brick building erected in Haliburton Village. The house at the right is what became the Kellett house, torn down in 1986 to expand Black's Hardware which occupied the Prust building by then. This photo was taken in the years of the First World War; note the recruiting poster on the front window of the store. The Laking Lumber Co. occupied the Prust building as an office and management residence around the time this photograph was taken. /Photo donated to the Haliburton Highlands Museum by family member Pat Cowen

letters to the editor

Invasive species in Haliburton County lakes

Dear MPP Laurie Scott,

Minden/Haliburton's five lake chain and Drag Lake, among others, need help with invasive species which are growing at an alarming and dangerous rate.

Tourism and taxation depend on healthy, rural ecosystems.

If the lakes are plugged with Eurasian Milfoil, not only will tourists and locals not enjoy their lakes, property values will fall and local governments will be unable to meet their responsibilities. Jobs and communities will suffer.

The Auditor General's report agrees that

Ontario needs to do more to combat invasive species.

Invasive species grow logarithmically, and so delay not only compounds harm, but also compounds the eventual cost of mitigation and eradication.

Please be our advocate. Please coordinate with treasury, finance, tourism and environment ministries to give this early and high priority.

Please let me know if you agree to advocate effectively on this issue within cabinet.

Paul Zalan,
Minden

Letters to the Editor note: Submissions must not exceed 300 words, and are subject to editing for newspaper style and punctuation.

Thieves make off with catalytic converters

JAMES MATTHEWS

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Police are investigating the theft of as many as 11 catalytic converters from cars parked on a local dealership lot.

OPP from the Haliburton Highlands detachment responded to a call Nov. 29 from Haliburton Chrysler on Highway 118. Several motor vehicles had been damaged.

It was discovered that catalytic converters had been cut and stolen from at least 11 vehicles. The damage, estimated to cost about \$125,000, is believed to have been done over the previous 72 hours.

Police say their investigation is continuing.

A catalytic converter is part of a vehicle's exhaust system that reduces airborne pollutants. There's precious metals inside, and those are the targets of thieves.

Those valuable metals include palladium, rhodium, and platinum. Those metals are more valuable than gold.

As the value of these precious metals has risen, so have the thefts.

Haliburton Highlands OPP is requesting anyone with information about this or any other unlawful activity to call 1-888-310-1122 or 705 286-1431. Should you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Shindig shines light in the Highlands

The 9th annual Highlands Christmas Shindig kicks off with some music by Jeff Moulton, Dan O’Neil, and Doug Hall at the at Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on Dec. 2. Dubbed “The funnest fundraiser,” the Shindig raised over \$33,000 for Fuel For Warmth, a charitable organization helping highlanders stay warm in the winter. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *Echo*



Rural Rogues’ Kate Butler and David Zilstra perform *A Holiday Delivery* skit.

Guests were treated to a glimpse of the up-coming Nutcracker ballet, featuring Sophie Longo and other Heritage Ballet dancers.



Shindig hosts Patsy Pine (Amy Brohm) and Maple Syrup (Victoria Bingham) get things underway Saturday.



Up River Trading Co.

Please join us for our **2022 CHRISTMAS** events:

OPEN HOUSE:
Saturday, Dec. 3. 8:30am - 5:30pm
Join us in HALIBURTON for IN-STORE SPECIALS, HOLIDAY TREATS, GIFT BAGS, and your chance to win **FABULOUS DOOR PRIZES!**

LADIES NIGHT:
Thursday, Dec. 8. 8:30am - 8pm
We’re staying open late for Haliburton Ladies Night.

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A large cheque was presented to Fuel For Warmth after more than \$33,000 was raised for the charity.

HHSS students bring cheer to their peers

VIVIAN COLLINGS

Editor

During the holidays, many donate wonderful gifts to food banks for families to give to younger children.

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School Interact club students want to provide teens, their peers, with the same opportunity.

Interact's Teen Holiday Gift Drive is back again, and is a competition between two school teams to see which can collect the most items to put together boxes to then give to local food banks with teenagers in mind as recipients.

"This initiative is important to Interact because we care about meeting the needs of local families during the holiday season. Often, gift drives produce lots of gifts for younger children. We wanted an initiative that benefits local teens in need," said Interact member and HHSS student Annabelle Borgdorff.

Last year, the club collected enough to put together 70 boxes.

"It gets bigger every year as we have more and more community support," said HHSS teacher Christine Carr.

The idea for the initiative came from the students themselves. They want all their peers to be given the same opportunity to open a gift of things they may want or need during the holidays.

"There is definitely a need for this during the holidays, as many families cannot necessarily afford a lot for their kids of all ages, especially right now," Carr said.

The school will be collecting gift cards, hygiene items, clothing, entertainment



Haliburton Highlands Secondary School's Interact club put together 70 boxes for teens last year to donate to the local food banks for their Teen Holiday Gift Drive initiative. /Submitted

items like books and games, and snacks until Sunday, Dec. 11.

"Interact will be putting together gift bags with the collected items. Half of these bags will be donated to the Haliburton Food Bank and the other half to the Minden Food Bank. From there, families in need are invited to pick gifts for their teens from the food banks," Annabelle

said.

Community members are able to contribute by placing donations in the bin provided at the Nutcracker performances at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion on Dec. 10 and 11.

The program will allow for teenagers in the community to enjoy gifts they might not otherwise receive, said Annabelle.

"By taking this on, [students] know they are helping their peers and friends in the school around them, and feel like they are making a difference in their own community," Carr said. "It is a cause they are passionate about, so they get to take the lead and work to make a difference."

Christmas Toy & Food Drive 2022

Join the Haliburton County Home Builders' Association and help us to make a difference!

As the Christmas season commences, The Haliburton County Home Builders Association would like to encourage you to include its Christmas Challenge in your plans. Large or small, each gift will help fill the Christmas hampers distributed by the Food Banks in Haliburton County. If you aren't sure what to collect simply gather local gift certificates.

Option 1: Call - text 705-457-6901, email info@hchba.ca in advance to arrange a date to pick up your gifts. We will take them to the local distribution centers.

Option 2: Drop off your gifts at one of our partners. We will then pick up from there.



Partner in Haliburton,

Haliburton Chrysler - 13533 Highway 118

Partner in Minden,

Ridgewood Ford - 12560 Highway 35



Ridgewood Ford Sales

Other Drop off locations

Haliburton - Cordell's

Minden - CIBC Minden, Ommh, Minden Home Hardware, Minden Post Office, TD Bank Minden,

Haliburton & Minden - Hudson Henderson Insurance Broker

All pick ups will need to be made BEFORE December 12

HCHBA Keystone Sponsors



16 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden, ON



Susan Nicholson

*Congratulations
on your retirement!
Wishing you all the best.*

K. Brewer Financial

Local Cadets Corps give youth 'a level playing field'

AMANDA DUNCOMBE-LEE

Special to the Echo

Haliburton resident Colt Taylor says joining the longstanding 1129 Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment Army Cadet Corps in Haliburton at the age of 12 made him the adult who he is today.

"It was the best thing that I ever decided to do with my life, and I've heard that from several people I went to Cadets with," said Taylor, who joined the Cadets the week of his 12th birthday and stayed until he aged out at 19. The 24-year-old is now a regular volunteer with the group.

"The people I met, the relationships I made – lifelong relationships, friendships; all the different experiences – every time I meet one of those people, I just get a huge nostalgia boost. It's a huge part of who I am today, and what I became. I hope that as many Cadets that join the Corps get that experience ... It provides so much for young people."

Over his seven years as a Cadet, Taylor worked hard and moved up the ranks, eventually becoming regimental sergeant major and overseeing responsibility for the group's activities. Specializing in marksmanship, drill and ceremonial, he was given opportunities to receive professional training, attend free summer camps, and develop his leadership skills and confidence.

Taylor said that while one of the aims of the Cadets is to promote interest in the Canadian Armed Forces, there is no



1129 Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment army cadets marched in the Remembrance Day Parade in Haliburton on Nov. 11. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff

pressure for members to join the military, and most of his peers in the Cadets went on to pursue other interests. Taylor now works at Outdoors Plus in Haliburton and runs his own recyclable fishing lures business, Haliburtonian Baits.

"It taught me about leadership and growing up. Not to mention all the skills I learned," he said.

Commanding Officer Corina Hall Mansfield also joined the Cadets at age 12 and specialized in music, navigation,

and expedition. She has held multiple positions within the corps and has been the commanding officer, commissioned by the Canadian Forces Supplementary Reserve, since 2019.

Now the owner/operator of Harcourt-based Deep Roots Adventure, Mansfield said her participation in Cadets was a formative part of her experience as a youth, providing her with stability and confidence, and triggering her love of instruction, leadership and physical fit-

ness.

Mansfield said being in the Cadets gives youth an opportunity to participate in "a level playing field."

"It's federally funded, and we have community support, so it doesn't matter what their socioeconomic status is," she said. "They get equal opportunity to do anything. It gives them really awesome life skills, leadership, communication, self-confidence, practical skills, trip planning, survival, marksmanship, opportunity to go to camp in the summer. I really feel Cadets is a good equalizer for youth in the community."

Mansfield said the local Cadets Corps facilitated a mountain biking program over the fall, will be hosting biathlon at Glebe Park, indoor rock climbing at Medeba, and hosts an ongoing marksmanship program. They will soon be partnering with Point in Time and the Haliburton County Youth Hub to offer mindful movement based on the Mindfulness Martial Arts program to help Cadets with managing stress and responsibilities.

"Seasonally, we try to utilize anything local we have available," she said.

The local Cadets Corps currently meet every Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 129, and sometimes hosts additional activities during weeknights and weekends. There is no fee to join. For information on how to sign up or to drop in to check out the program, email haliburtonarmycadets@gmail.com. To get a broader overview of the program, visit cadets.ca.

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DOWNTOWN HALIBURTON
For your chance to win
\$1,500 IN GIFT CERTIFICATES!
TO BE SPENT AT HALIBURTON BIA MEMBER LOCATIONS

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CONTEST CLOSES: 11:59PM DECEMBER 22, 2022.
DRAW WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE MOOSE FM STATION IN HALIBURTON AT NOON ON DECEMBER 24, 2022.
WINNER WILL BE NOTIFIED BY PHONE.

Contest open to all legal residents of Ontario. Adult prize winner(s) must be 19 years of age or older. Grand prize winner receives a Total of \$1500.00 (One thousand Five hundred dollars) in gift certificate from any Haliburton B.I.A. member. Gift Certificate(s) can be one in the full amount of \$1500, or multiple denominations of no less than \$100. The Grand prize total is not to exceed \$1500. Ballots must be received by authorized Haliburton BIA merchant. Prize must be accepted as awarded and may not be substituted or converted to cash.

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Turkey, Veg, Potato, Gravy, Stuffing, Cranberry sauce, Buns, Apple cranberry streusel tart

11am-2pm, December 9, 16, 23
49 Maple Ave, Haliburton • 705-457-1700



Two of the volunteers, Lynn Higgs Thompson, front, and Mary Fox, were hard at work during the launch of A Warm Hug from the Highlands.



Crafting comfort for those with cancer

A Warm Hug from the Highlands was launched at Abbey Gardens on Saturday, Dec 3. Over 20 volunteers gathered at the Abbey Retreat Centre to help create about 15 quilts in one day for this new initiative at the Abbey Retreat Centre. The goal of the Warm Hug from the Highlands program is to surround everyone living with a cancer diagnosis with a quilt. These quilts are available for both local and seasonal residents of the Highlands, free of charge, as they are made by volunteers. To request a quilt, simply write an email to awarmhug@abbeyretreatcentre.ca. So far, 25 quilts have been given away, with three more people waiting for their own Warm Hug from the Highlands. Lia Howe, from left, director at Abbey Retreat Centre and coordinator of A Warm Hug from the Highlands Shelley van Nood, and Mary Lou Clark hold up one of the handmade quilts. /DAVID ZILSTRA Staff



Meeting the Huskies

Run, run Rudolph, the Huskies are in town! The Haliburton County Huskies team met with community members and Santa during Huskies Santa Day hosted by Curry Chevrolet Buick GMC Limited in Haliburton on Wednesday, Nov. 30. The event featured a meet and greet with the Huskies, autograph signing, photos with Santa, and donations were collected for the local food bank. /VIVIAN COLLINGS Staff



Haliburton County Huskies defense player Zack Terry chats with Santa.



Carter McCord holds up his hockey stick that was signed for him by the Huskies during Huskies Santa Day.

Hark! The Festival Singers sing

Highlands Festival singer Marsha Staton Sweet sings *Sure on this Shining Night* during the Highlands Festival Singers' concert, *Hallelujah! We're Back LIVE!* held at the Haliburton United Church on Sunday, Dec. 4. The performance will be held again on Tuesday, Dec. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Haliburton United Church. Tickets will be available at the door. /TIM YANO Special to the Echo



The Highlands Festival Singers sing *We Rise Again* during their concert, *Hallelujah!*



Members of the Highlands Festival Singers sing *Waltz of the Flowers*.



Highlands Festival Singers sing *Christmas goes Classical*.



Melissa Stephens plays piano while the Highlands Festival Singers sing at their concert.

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705-935-1112

North Pigeon Lake \$775,000

- 3 bedroom / 1 bathroom, 900 SqFt
- Fully Winterized, Newly Built Bunkie
- Large Updated Windows Overlooking Lake
- Breathtaking Sunrise Views



Adele Barry
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Haliburton Home \$899,000

- 3 Beds, 3 Baths, 2100+ Sq Ft
- 2.3 Acres, 3 Season Screened Porch
- Beautiful View of Barnum lake
- New 24x40 Detached Heated Shop



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Hunter Creek Rd \$975,000

- Class B licensed pit & quarry
- 88 acres close to Minden
- Potential to sever lots



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854-0292

Pine Lake

- 5 Beds / 3 Baths, 2,400 Sq Ft
- 1.36 Acres, Heated 3 Car Garage
- Outdoor Kitchen, Hot Tub & Guesthouse
- Only 15 Minutes From Town of Haliburton!



Gloria Carnochan* &
Breaun Budel*
754-1932

Level Lot Green LK Rd South Exp

- Build Your Home Or Cottage With Lake Views
- Level Lot, Easy To Build On, School Bus Route
- Put The Boat In, Go Fishing Or Tour 3 Lk Chain
- Walk 2 West Guilford 4 Store, Restaurant, Lcbo



Mark Dennys*
457-0473

HALIBURTON CONDOMINIUM - \$699,900

- 1236 Sq Ft, 3rd Flr, 2 Bdrm, 2 Bath, A/C
- Large Balcony w/ Entertainment Space/Views
- Head Lake (5 Lake Chain), Move-in Ready
- Underground Parking, Close to Walking Trails



Tom Ecclestone*
286-2138 x 226

Minden Home \$399,000

- 2 Beds / 1 Bath, 700+ Sq Ft
- All New Windows, Siding, Electrical & More!
- Totally Renovated From Top to Bottom
- Close to Town for All Amenities!



Lindsay Elder**
457-5878

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- If you're thinking of selling...CALL ME!
- Strike while the market is hot!



Melanie Hevesi**
854-1000

Find me now at 35 & 118

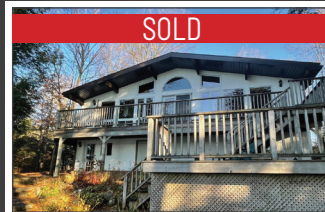
- Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist
- Thinking about selling in today's market?
- Call ME TODAY!



Andrew Hodgson**
286-2138 x 229

Haliburton Home \$579,000

- Updated, open concept 3 bedrooms bungalow
- Full basement w/high ceilings to finish to your taste
- Spacious & private 2+ acre parcel just outside town
- Plus a large Quonset hut with separate driveway



Susanne James* &
Andy Mosher**
457-2128 x 133

Miskwabi Lake

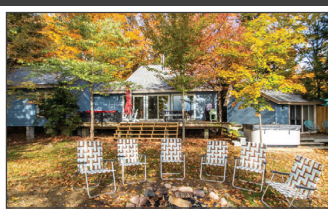
- 4-season cottage on awesome 2-lake chain
- Clean deep shoreline, big lake view, western sunset
- Year-round Municipal road access, 20 mins from Haliburton Village



Ashley McKeigue
705-854-1833

Kashagawigamog Lk \$1,675,000

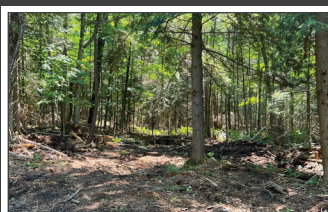
- Year-round home or cottage close to town
- 3 bedrooms, 3 baths across 3 finished levels
- 1 bedroom, 1 bath loft over new 2-car garage
- 100' of frontage with sunset exp & sand beach!



Donna McCallum*
455-2054

Haliburton Lake \$1,199,900

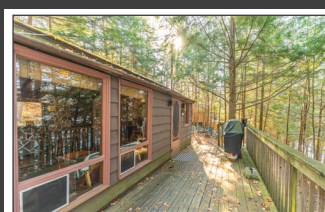
- 3 Beds / 2 Bath + Loft, 1300+ SqFt
- 100ft of Clean Frtg, Sun All Day
- Bunkie, Sauna, Lakeside Hot Tub
- 10 Mins to Fort Irwin, 20 Mins to Hali



Brandon Nimigon***
457-2128 x 127

Building Lot \$238,000

- 290ft of Frtg, Close Proximity to Eagle Lk
- Nicely Treed 2.6 Acre Parcel
- Off Grid Property, Driveway Roughed In
- Abutting Properties For Sale!



Karen Nimigon*
457-6505

Wenona Lake \$400,000

- 2 Beds / 1 Bath, 470+ Sq Ft
- Gorgeous west facing Sunsets & Sunshine!
- Lakeside Dock w/Sitting Area, Large Deck
- Live the Dream!



Kelly Kay
705-457-6841
Kirsten Rae*
705-854-1454

Haliburton Condo \$695,000

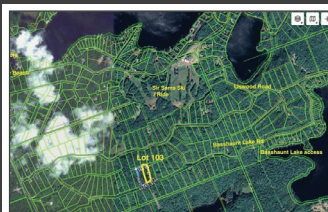
- Luxurious waterfront condo in Haliburton
- 1117 sq ft, 2 bath, 2 bedrooms plus den/office
- Many upgrades plus incredible water views from every room!



Darlene Reil*
447-2055

Thinking About Selling?

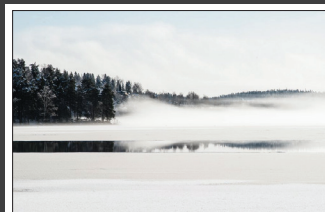
- This is the time to think about listing
- Listings Needed!
- Call today for more information



Christine Sharp*
705-489-9968

Private, Building Lot \$159,000

- 2 Acre Forested Lot
- Beautiful Mixture of Pine & Maple Trees
- Public Access to Basshaunt Lake Close By
- Few Mins From All Amenities of Eagle Lake



Greg Stamp*
457-2128 x 128

Listings Wanted

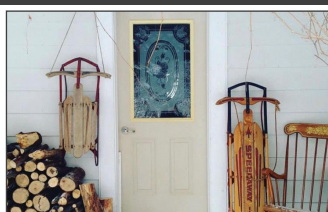
- If you're thinking of buying or selling...
- Call me today for a free evaluation!
- Happy Holidays!



Melanie Vigrass*
286-2138 x 232

Bethel Road \$599,900

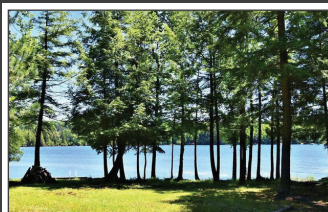
- Incredible 194-acre parcel 5 mins from Minden
- Long gated driveway - private, cleared building site
- Large frontage on picturesque Walker's Pond
- Trails throughout to explore, teaming with wildlife



Tom Wilkinson*
286-2138 x 225

Gooderham Home \$759,900

- 3 Bedrooms / 1 Bathroom, 1400+ Sq Ft
- Sits on 2.96 Acres, Cutest Little Hobby Farm!
- Beautiful Gardens & Very Well Maintained Barn



Andrea Wilson**
705-457-6694

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- CLUES ACROSS

 - 1. Not invited
 - 6. Whale ship captain
 - 10. One point south of southwest
 - 14. Small cavity in a rock
 - 15. Recidivists
 - 17. City of Angels hoopster
 - 19. A way to mark with one's signature
 - 20. OJ trial judge
 - 21. Rice cooked in broth
 - 22. One point east of due south
 - 23. One point east of southeast
 - 24. Complements an entree
 - 26. Grouped by twos
 - 29. Disfigure
 - 31. Woods
 - 32. Political action committee
 - 34. Longer of 2 bones in the forearm
 - 35. Kin groups
 - 37. Philippine Island
 - 38. Contrary to
 - 39. Bluish-gray fur
 - 40. Comprehend the written word
 - 41. Natural depressions
 - 43. Felines
 - 45. Breathe noisily
 - 46. Taxi
 - 47. Pancake made from buckwheat flour
 - 49. Swiss river
 - 50. Foot (Latin)
 - 53. Have surgery
 - 57. Formal withdrawal
 - 58. Monetary units of Peru
 - 59. Greek war god
 - 60. 2,000 lbs.
 - 61. High points

CLUES DOWN

 - 1. Green and yellow citrus fruit
 - 2. A bright color
 - 3. Thicket
 - 4. Journalist Tarbell
- 5. A place to work or relax
 - 6. Sharp mountain ridge
 - 7. Helicopter
 - 8. Mimic
 - 9. Suggests
 - 10. More musty
 - 11. Large, flightless rail
 - 12. Make beer
 - 13. Soviet Socialist Republic
 - 16. People who can account for you
 - 18. Taunt
 - 22. South Dakota
 - 23. Cover the entirety of
 - 24. Kids' favorite visitor
 - 25. A way to save for retirement
 - 27. Fencing swords
 - 28. C. China mountain range
 - 29. Type of sandwich
 - 30. Team
 - 31. Paddle
 - 33. Partly digested food
 - 35. Most cagey
 - 36. Shoppers make one
 - 37. Cathode-ray tube
 - 39. Food supplies
 - 42. Backbones
 - 43. Concern
 - 44. Blood group
 - 46. Broadway songwriter Sammy
 - 47. Dutch colonist
 - 48. Full-grown pike fish
 - 49. Deity of a monotheistic cult
 - 50. Type of bread
 - 51. S. Nigerian people
 - 52. Scottish tax
 - 53. Young women's association
 - 54. Brazilian city
 - 55. Hide of a young animal
 - 56. Midway between north and northeast

Answers on page 17

Youth Nights give kids a chance to 'just be themselves'

AMANDA DUNCOMBE-LEE
Special to the Echo

“We’re in the confidence building business. It’s not always about the sailing.”
— ROBIN CARMOUNT, HALIBURTON COUNTY YOUTH SAILING ASSOCIATION ORGANIZER

The school gym at Archie Stouffer Elementary School in Minden is a flurry of activities and laughter every Monday night. On average, about 60-70 youth from Grades 5 to 8 attend a free youth program created by Minden OPP Officer Robin Carmount, where they can play games of their choice, socialize, listen to music, and leave their worries behind.

“It’s a night where kids just do what they want. It’s unstructured. I have a bin of stuff they can use. There’s floor hockey, dodgeball ... They just run around for an hour and a half. Over the past couple of years basketball has turned into a big thing,” said Carmount.

The winner of this year’s Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce Highlander of Year award, Carmount first started the local youth program back in 2015. “I was coaching Stanhope soccer at the time, my kids were kind of that age, and there was nothing in the community for kids to do. I had run a similar program up north [in White River] before coming here, at the elementary school,” he said.

Five years ago, the program expanded to Wilberforce. It runs every Thursday night at Lloyd Watson Memorial Centre with an average of about 25 to 30 kids from Grades 4 to 8 attending.

The program receives funding from the Kin Club of Minden and Rotary Club of Minden, in-kind support from the schools, and volunteer support from the OPP Auxiliary and community volunteers. Carmount welcomes donations from the community to help support the program. High school students needing volunteer hours are also welcome to volunteer.

Youth attending give an optional donation of one dollar and then help decide as a group where to donate the collected funds. Carmount said that since the program first started in Minden, approximately \$4,000 has been raised that goes directly back to local charities and families in need. Recipients have included the school breakfast program, flood relief, daycares, hospitals, housing organizations and animal shelters.

Jackie Smith has spent two years volunteering with the program. “It’s had a huge impact on the kids. It’s a spot where they can just be themselves,” she said. “There are structured rules, but no agenda ... it’s just, come together with all the friends that make you feel like a kid again, even the adults.”

“It’s important because it’s a night to

have a sheltered environment without an attached bill or invoice,” said Smith. “There’s so much stuff out there that’s available for kids, but there are barriers in transportation, funding, etc. Everything comes with a cost. We seem to forget that’s why there’s not that buy-in, because parents are afraid to say, this is too much for me.”

Several summers ago, Carmount also started a free summer sailing program, the Haliburton County Youth Sailing Association, for local youth. The community-driven program is supported by donations, and runs through the Red Umbrella Inn in Minden, and from Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton’s dock in Wilberforce. Carmount is looking for more volunteers to support the popular program.

“We’re in the confidence building business,” said Carmount. “It’s not always about the sailing. You have kids show up, they’re afraid or nervous, and then after doing it ... they start having fun and aren’t nervous anymore. Just to put this in their toolbox, and by the end of the year, they have their bronze certificate for sailing, is such a cool thing. They all love it.”

“Robin never gives up,” said Smith. “He always has a smile on his face ... it’s that attitude and due diligence that really pulls it through. He always thinks, ‘How can I give back, and just let the kids be kids.’ I’m honoured to be part of it.”

Carmount’s newest project is building a roadside bookstore out of a donated 32-foot wooden boat in Carnarvon as a fundraiser for the youth nights and sailing club. He hopes it will be ready by summer.

For more information about the youth nights or sailing program, or if you would like to donate or volunteer, email Robin at mindoverwater2019@gmail.com.

We’ve been advertising with the Haliburton Echo consistently and are pleased with our results. Laura’s attention to detail with our ad design, personalized care with our content and supplemental advertorial placements make the difference in boosting our marketing message.

Thank you!



'Tis the season for dazzling art

Tom Green of Glass Eagle Studios displays his stained glass artwork on Saturday. The Christmas Art Show and Sale was hosted at the Haliburton United Church on Saturday and featured about a dozen artists from around the highlands. From unique glass designs and wood craft, to handmade jewelry and watercolour paintings, there was a little of everything for all of your local holiday shopping needs. /ADAM FRISK Special to the *Echo*



Barbra Hart displays her oil, acrylic and watercolour paintings.



Shawn Stoughton of 4th Gen Wood Craft displays a variety of woodwork.



Biljana Webb of Whirling Wisdom Art Creations displays her unique artwork.



Louise Owtftrim Ewing and Nicki Brazier Hagarty of Off Loom Bead Weaving display their creations.



Keli Schmidt of Haliburton Clothing Co. displays her designer-made T-shirts and hoodies last Saturday.

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Spreading joy

Cheer was brought to seniors living in the Parklane Apartments in Haliburton by Gord Kidd, left, and Ian Pay playing some tunes on Friday, Dec. 2. "We had quite the singalong with a room full of excellent voices joining in. Gord and Ian have played at our Annual Christmas Party for many years now. Always a happy event," said Sandy Wheeler. /Submitted

HSA+D students Wrap it Up

A flurry of activity is happening in the studios of Fleming College. Students are busy preparing for Wrap it Up, the end of semester art exhibition hosted by current students in full-time certificate programs at the Haliburton School of Art + Design. This one-day show will take place on Dec. 17th between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Wrap it Up provides an opportunity for emerging artists to gain exhibition experience and showcase their many talents. The culminating exhibit will feature a variety of media from fall semester students including painting and drawing, artist blacksmithing, ceramics, fibre arts and photography.

Artists will be available to discuss their works and answer questions. Select works will be available for purchase. The exhibition is free of charge and open to all. Join inspiring students for light refreshments as well as the opportunity to explore the unique and stimulating space that is the Haliburton School of Art + Design.

*Submitted by Fleming College
Haliburton School of Art + Design*

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

S	K	V	E	P		N	O	T		S	E	R	V	
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S	B	W	S		B	A	H	A		D	I	B	N	U



A happy holiday breakfast

Cordell Carpet's annual contractors breakfast was enjoyed by all local contractors who attended on Thursday, Dec. 1. /Submitted



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Saturday, Dec 17 @ 4 p.m.
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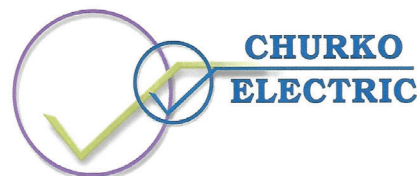
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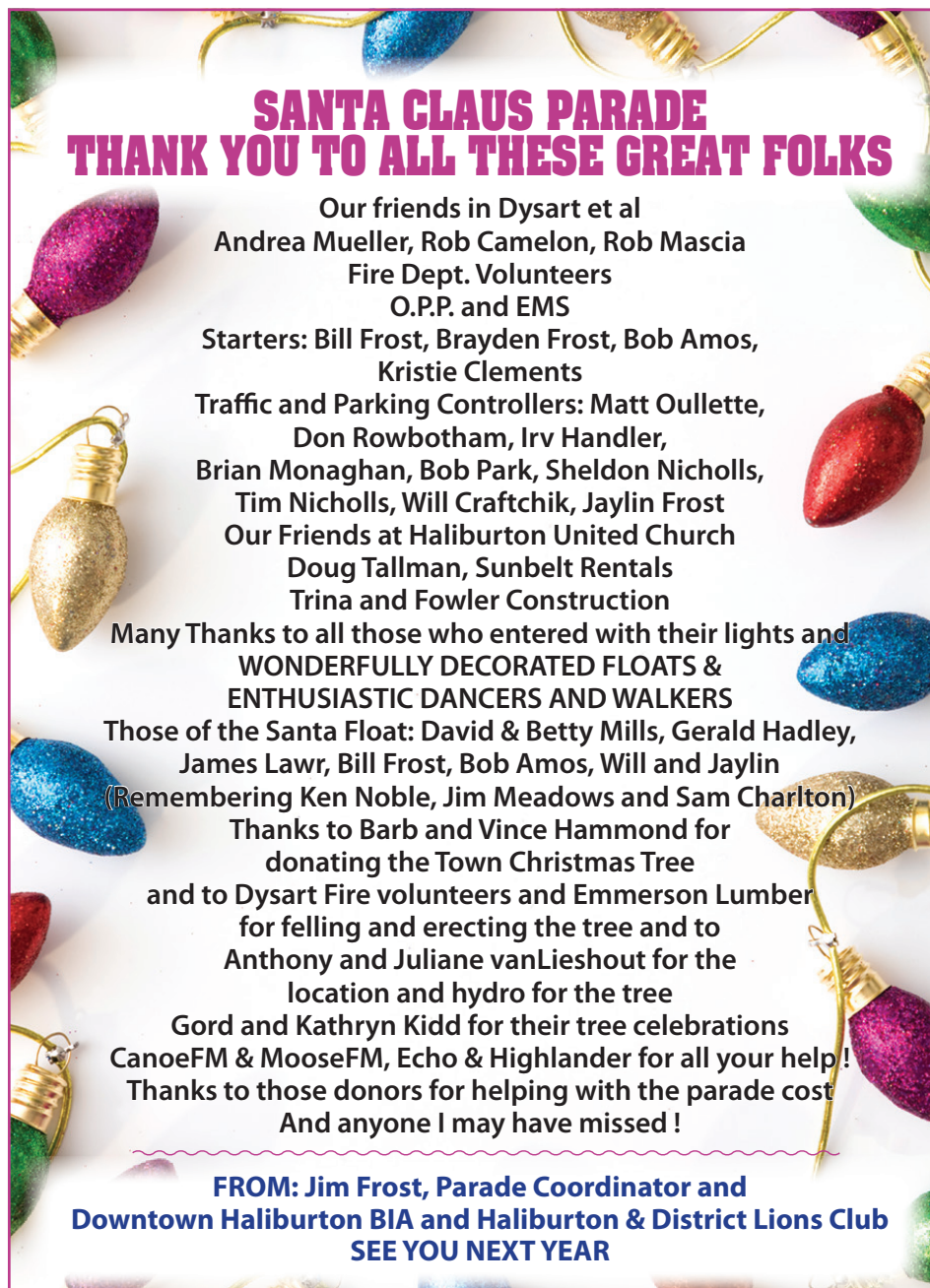
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Anthony and Juliane vanLieshout for the
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Gord and Kathryn Kidd for their tree celebrations
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**FROM: Jim Frost, Parade Coordinator and
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Tuesday, December 14, 2010



Santa in Wilberforce

Kids get a chance to meet the man in red Sunday



Lucky dog

Carl Dixon releases his first album after near-fatal car crash



Through the darkness

Loretta Kerr leaps across the stage in *The Nutcracker* ballet, as staged by the Heritage Ballet Studio on Friday. See more photos on page 3. Darren Lum Echo staff

Welfare cases up 6.5%

Jenn Watt
Editor

The number of Ontario Works recipients is up again this year in Haliburton County with 6.5 per cent more cases in November, 2010, than November, 2009.

Supporting 438 individuals (through 263 OW cases), the need for social assistance payments has continued to rise even after the recession was declared over by economists.

"From social assistance in general - from Ontario Works to the previous general welfare - [the provincial government] identified there's a general two-year lag time for social assistance caseloads to show significant recovery following the end of a recession," said Rod Sutherland, manager of social services for Haliburton and the City of Kawartha Lakes.

Statistics Canada recently released the unemployment rate for Central Ontario, revealing that the county's figures have yet to approach pre-recession levels.

Central Ontario had an unemployment rate of nine per cent in November - down from 9.3 per cent in October, but a long way from the area's 2008 jobless rate of about 6.5 per cent.

The provincial unemployment average now sits at 8.2 per cent.

While the numbers do look grim, Sutherland points out that the rate caseloads are increasing is slowing down.

"You can tell in terms of the cases, the level and the increases that we saw ... in 2008 and 2009, it's definitely slowed down, we're not getting as much volume," he said.

Between 2008 and 2009, Sutherland watched his office's caseload expand by 31 per cent.

And although the post-recession bleed has slowed, the need is still as strong as ever, with government assistance payments barely covering the necessities of life.

A single person on OW can receive a maximum of \$591 a

see FOOD MONEY page 4



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- A & S Millson, July 2020

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-C. Bugden

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We appreciate all the help we have been given throughout this process. It has made the whole experience much less stressful than we anticipated. Linda and her Team certainly deserve a pat on the back for the dedication and professionalism we have received as clients, well done!
- C&P Fleig

**3rd Annual
Haliburton County
Food & Toy Drive**

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NOVEMBER 14 - DECEMBER 11

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WEEK 4 - DEC. 5 TO 11

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December 6 - Canned Carrots	December 10 - Package of Muffin Mix
December 7 - Canned Green Beans	December 11 - Package of Granola Bars
December 8 - Canned Peas	

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